

Figures 1 - 7 added with the Preliminary Amendment constituted new matter. However, as discussed during the interview and supported by the enclosed declaration of Edward W. Greason, attorney of record, these figures have simply been taken from Japanese Patent Application No. HEI 9-169007 (JP '007) which was expressly incorporated by reference in this application. As discussed during the interview, under MPEP § 608.01(P)(I)(A)(2), incorporation of this essential subject matter is proper when accompanied by a declaration affirming that the subject matter added is the same as that in the material incorporated by reference.

As agreed during the interview, it is therefore respectfully submitted that Figures 1 - 7 do not constitute new matter and the rejection under § 112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

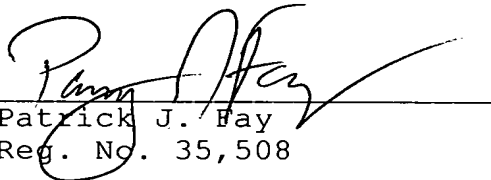
It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 13, 2000

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